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UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART V. SOUTH WEST ASIA, NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Section 11 - Other Countries in North Africa

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02311

V.11 OTHER COUNTRIES IN NORTH AFRICA

1. This section covers the activities of UNHCR in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco and Tunisia.

1. Beneficiary population

(a) Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

2. At 31 December 1994, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya hosted a registered refugee population of 1,975, comprising 956 Somalis, 220 Ethiopians, 703 Eritreans, 67 Bosnians and 29 persons of other nationalities. A total of 480 of these refugees were assisted by UNHCR.

(b) Morocco

3. The registered refugee population in Morocco consisted of 349 persons of various nationalities of whom 52 were assisted by UNHCR. These included seven elderly Europeans who have long been Morocco and are without any other source of income. The remainder are mainly Somalis, Liberians and a small number from Algeria and other African countries. UNHCR has provided 48 Palestinian students with education grants.

(c) Tunisia

4. In Tunisia, there were some 100 refugees of various origin, all of whom were assisted by UNHCR either on an emergency or on a regular basis. Ten refugee students were also assisted under the Education Account.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

(a) Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

5. Sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in 1992 have affected all aspects of life. The embargo has led to the country's economic decline. This has been accompanied by rising unemployment among nationals as well as among Somali, Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees, who have been most affected. The Government officially requested UNHCR to organize the repatriation of refugees when conditions in their countries of origin would allow it. The Government also requested the vacating, by September 1995, of the reception centre in Tripoli provided in 1992 by the Social Security Department (SSD) to shelter Somali refugees. UNHCR is in the process of registering some 500 Eritreans and 51 Ethiopians who have expressed their wish to repatriate and it is expected that the majority of them will have done so before the end of 1995. In 1994, only 18 Somali refugees repatriated under UNHCR auspices because of the uncertain security conditions in Northern Somalia.

6. In January 1995 a UNHCR Liaison Officer post was created in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to strengthen the presence of UNHCR in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and to facilitate the early organization of a repatriation operation.

(b) Morocco and Tunisia

7. Because of political developments in the region, there was a considerable increase in the number of asylum-seekers approaching UNHCR in both Morocco and in Tunisia. The office of the Honorary Correspondent in Tunisia has been reinforced by the creation of a post of a Senior Regional Legal Officer who will undertake the screening of individual cases in Tunisia as well as in Morocco and Libya. In 1995, the allocation for local settlement in Tunisia that had been provided to assist elderly refugees was discontinued. Because they were so few and could not be locally integrated, an allocation for care and maintenance was established instead; this project will assist new beneficiaries identified as persons of concern by the Headquarters mission which took place in September 1994.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

8. **Libyan Arab Jamahiriya**: In the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the voluntary repatriation of Somali, Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees will remain the primary objective. Assisting the urban caseload, including the Somalis who are unable to repatriate, will continue in respect of subsistence allowances and medical care.

9. **Morocco and Tunisia**: In Morocco and in Tunisia, targeted assistance will continue to be provided to destitute refugees, aiming at their self-reliance, until the situations in their countries of origin permit their voluntary repatriation.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

(i) General Programmes

a. Care and maintenance

10. **Libyan Arab Jamahiriya**: Assistance will be provided mainly to the Somali refugees who are not able to repatriate, as well as to other vulnerable cases, until a durable solution can be identified. The proposed allocation for 1996 will be decreased slightly because it is expected that a number of Somalis will have been able to repatriate in 1995.

11. **Morocco and Tunisia**: Care and maintenance in the form of subsistence allowances and medical payments will be maintained in Morocco and Tunisia for elderly and destitute refugees as well as new persons of concern. The proposed allocations take cost of living increases in these countries into account.

b. Voluntary repatriation

12. **Libyan Arab Jamahiriya**: If required, funds to cover the repatriation of the Eritrean, Ethiopian and Somali caseloads will be requested from the 1996 General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation.

c. Local settlement

13. **Morocco**: As in previous years, elderly refugees in Morocco will continue to be provided with health care and subsistence allowances.

d. Implementing partners

14. **Libyan Arab Jamahiriya**: In the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, UNHCR activities will continue to be implemented through UNDP by a UNHCR Liaison Officer.

15. **Morocco**: UNHCR will directly implement assistance to refugees in Morocco through the office of the UNHCR Honorary Representative supported by a UNHCR Senior Regional Legal Officer based in Tunisia.

16. **Tunisia**: In Tunisia, it is expected that the programme of assistance will be implemented by the UNHCR Honorary Representative in coordination with the Tunisian Red Crescent (CRT). The UNHCR Senior Regional Legal Officer will be entrusted with the legal and protection aspects of the programme.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

17. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers)

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

18. **Libyan Arab Jamahiriya**: Expenditure in 1994 was slightly higher than the revised estimates because of an increase in local salaries for the staff administered by UNDP and for support service costs charged by UNDP.

19. **Morocco**: The 1994 expenditure was lower than the revised estimates due to lower than expected expenditure under common staff costs.

20. **Tunisia**: The 1994 expenditure in Tunisia covered only the support provided to the Honorary Representative in Tunis.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

21. **Libyan Arab Jamahiriya**: Following a mission from Headquarters on protection issues in September 1994 and an internal audit of UNHCR operations in April 1994, it was recommended that UNHCR establish an office independent of UNDP. Revised 1995 requirements are therefore much higher than initial requirements. Salaries and common staff costs include the 1 January 1995 creation of six posts: a

Liaison Officer, a Senior Administrative Secretary, a Senior Field Clerk, a Driver and two Senior Guards as of 1 January 1995. Increased requirements also include additional general operating expenses to furnish the office.

22. **Morocco**: Revised 1995 requirements are higher than initial estimates mainly because renovations and improvements need to be made to the office premises. In anticipation of the voluntary repatriation of Western Saharan refugees and the increased involvement of our office in Morocco, additional provision has been made for the procurement of computer equipment, a fax machine and air-conditioners.

23. **Tunisia**: Revised 1995 requirements are higher than initial estimates because the office of the Honorary Representative office in Tunis was reinforced by the 1 January 1995 creation of three posts: a Senior Legal Officer, a Senior Administrative Secretary and one Driver. Non-staff costs were increased accordingly and, in particular, for the acquisition of furniture and equipment.

(iii) **Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)**

24. **Libyan Arab Jamahiriya**: Initial 1996 requirements are lower than revised 1995 requirements principally because of a reduction under acquisition of furniture and equipment, since this should be completed in 1995.

25. **Morocco**: Initial 1996 requirements are the same as revised 1995 requirements.

26. **Tunisia**: The 1996 requirements are lower than revised 1995 requirements. The three posts that were created in 1995 will be maintained until December 1996. Requirements under acquisition of furniture and equipment will be decreased because most of the procurement will have been completed in 1995.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN NORTH AFRICA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994				1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION		SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)					
104.2	126.2	135.9	Morocco	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	135.9
860.2	860.1	894.9	Libya		877.9
–	–	231.4 a/	Tunisia		235.4
–	63.8	–	Libya	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
39.5	–	–	Morocco		–
36.6	48.7	52.4	Morocco	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	55.0
101.9	80.0	–	Tunisia		–
				PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	
168.6	181.5	563.0	Libya		519.6
–	–	312.6 a/	Tunisia		242.5
1,311.0	1,360.3	2,190.2		SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS	2,066.3
–	–	39.5 a/	Libya	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	39.5
1,311.0	1,360.3	2,229.7		TOTAL (1)	2,105.8
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)					
				EDUCATION ACCOUNT	
37.7	65.3	–	Morocco		–
10.3	20.0	–	Tunisia		–
57.8	–	–	Tunisia	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	–
–	–	28,499.8		WESTERN SAHARA REPATRIATION	–
53.5	67.4	79.6	Morocco	PROGRAMME DELIVERY	81.9
–	–	35.0	Western Sahara	See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
50.6	62.6	85.6	Morocco	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	86.6
209.9	215.3	28,700.0		TOTAL (2)	168.5
1,520.9	1,575.6	30,929.7		GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	2,274.3

a/ Allocated from Other Programmes